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The B. & M. R. R. Co. is making quite extensive improvements in their yards at Table Rock and other points in Nebraska which will furnish employment to a large number of workmen.

The flotilla of Spanish torpedo boats, and torpedo boat destroyers that left the Canary Islands for Porto Rico last Thursday is one of the most formidable flotillas in the world, consisting of thirteen of these boats and is being very carefully watched from Washington, and the present indications are that this flotilla will not be allowed to come nearer than Porto Rico to our shores, This is about 900 miles from Key West and is close enough to allow them with such a formidable squadron of war engines.

The constitutional convention of Louisiana that has been at work for several months trying to devise ways and means by which the negro can be kept from voting, thereby assisting the perpetual success of the democratic party in that state, has finished its work and adopted the plan of an educational and property qualification, and poll tax to keep the black man from a vote and made the peculiar provision for white voters, of exempting naturalized voters and all who were voters in 1867 with their sons and grand sons. Of course that was before the negro voted. Democracy is the same slimy scorpion the world over.

Two new battle ships, the Kentuckey and Kearsarge were launched at Newport News, Va. last Friday with the usual pompt and ceremony attending such an occasion. The Kentuckey was christened by Miss Bradley, daughter of the governor of that state, and the Kearsarge by Mrs. Winslow, breaking the bottle of Champaigne over the bow. They are the highest type of steel battle ships made and when the last post that held them to the ways was severed, they slid into the water with the grace of a swan, according to eye witnesses, bathed themselves in their fnture element with the modesty of a queen, and the question now echos from ear to ear, how long will it be until they are baptized with fire.

It has been a query to most people to know how the governnent was going to utelize the great number of speedy yachts that it has been purchasing of late, and armoring with light armor and placing an armament on board. They will be used as picket boats thrown out at night, at about one and a half miles from the squadron, forming a cordon entirely around it to keep a lookout for torpedo boats, and see that they do not approach near enough to the large battle ships to send a torpedo against them, should one be discovered rockets will be sent up from the yacht notifying the cruisers of its where abouts, and the powerful search lights would be immediately turned in that direction, the little intruder ferreted out, and the big guns trained on him so as to destroy him before he could do any damage. A torpedo boat is of no account, as far as the torpedo is conserned, unless they can get within about 800 yards of the object of their aim, and with the storm of leaden hail that would come from a dozen ships of war well aimed it would be very nearly impossible for a torpedo boat to get close enough to fire a torpedo before being sunk. The little yacht, after warning the squadron would retire to safe quarters.

William McKinley has completed his first year of office. He has executed his trust as the nation's chief executive with conspicuous ability, and has the moral support of the great mass of patriotic American citizens, without regard to party. Under his administration, the country has enjoyed its most prosperous year since 1892, and enters upon the second with every prospect of an increase in prosperity in all the great lines of human activity. Toledo Blade.

SINKING OF THE ALABAMA.

The modern battle ship Kearsarge that was launched at Newport News Va. last Friday, is named after the famous old vessel that sunk the confederate privateer Alabama, on June 19, 1864. off Cherbourg France, and which wrecked on Roncadore Reef in Central America a few years ago. The christening of the new vessel, brings to mind the engagement that ended so gloriously for the Kearsarge, which we give below as it is recorded in history.

"This notable fight occurred Sunday morning, June 19, 1864. Early in June, while anchored off Flushing Holland, Captain John A Winslow Commander of the Kearsarge, received word from minister Dayton in Paris, that the confederate cruiser Alabama, the terror of United States commerce, had anchored off Cherbourg France. Commander Winslow immediately steamed to Cherbourg, anchoring near the breakwater He paid an official visit on shore and there received through Mr. Lials, the United States commercial agent, a challenge to fight, which Admiral Semmes, of the Alabama had sent to Mr. Binfils, the confederate agent. Captain Winslow accepted the challenge, and for several days cruised to and fro near the breakwater waiting for the confederate vessel. Sunday morning June 19, at 10;30 the Alabama was sighted. The Kearsarge had been placed in Sunday attire, the marines were in best garb, the guns polished, and the decks scrubbed. The vessel was immediately cleared for action, and commander Winslow steamed further out to sea that he might not violate the laws of nations, and sufficiently far to prevent the Alabama from entering neutral waters. The Alabama was escorted by the French ironclad Couronna, which soon after steamed back to Cherbourg. The Deerhound, a small rigged steamer flying the flag of the Royal Mersey Yacht club, was also with the Alabama. When between six and seven mile from the shore the Kearsarge thoroughly ready, wheeled at a distance of one and a quarter miles from the Alabama, the latter sheered and a moment later sent a broadside at the Kearsarge which fell short. The Kearsarge put on increased speed and advanced rapidly, receiving a second and third broadside from the confederate vessel. The object of the latter was to fight at long range. When within 900 yards the Kearsarge broke silence with her starboard battery, each ship was now under a full head of steam, the position being broadside to broadside and traveling in a circular track. The Alabama changed from solid shot to shell, a shot from the Kearsarge carried away the spanker gaff and down came the ensign, while the marines on the United States war ship cheered lustily. It was deemed a favorable omen. The battle was now hot and the Alabama was firing both shot and shell rapidly and wildly, while the Kearsarge was dropping terrable missels into the Alabama with alarming precision and accuracy. The effect soon began to tell and the Alabama began to settle. Cheer after cheer resounded on the decks of the Kearsarge and the enthusiasm grew more intense with every shot.

Seven times round the vessels had passed and they were on the eight. Suddenly the Alabama left the circle and headed for French waters, the Kearsarge persued and with well directed aim hastened its sinking condition. Large ragged holes were visible in the sides of the Alabama, through which water rushed in torrents. The boat was clearly doomed, her colors were struck and the Kearsarge ceased firing. Two of the junior officers however, who declared they would not surrender, rushed to the port guns and sent several shots at the Kearsarge. Commander Winslow ordered another broad side, believing the striking of colors a mere trick. The Kearsarge took a position where it could use grape and canister with terrable effect when a small white flag appeared over the stern of the rebel ship, for the second time the firing ceased. This ended the battle, which had lasted one hour and two minutes. Captain Semmes sent away the wounded, and those who could not swim in a small boat, and then with the remaining officers and men jumped overboard. He, twelve other officers and twenty six men were rescued by the yacht Deerhound which was asked to save the men by Captain Winslow, John Lancaster, the owner of the Deerhound, then steamed for Southampton, and thus it was that the thirty three men who were properly prisoners of the Kearsarge, and could have been secured escaped the clutches of the United States government by means of the shelter of a neutral flag.

The Alabama sunk soon after in fifty five fathams of water, at a distance of four and one half miles from the breakwater. Suddenly assuming a perpendicular position, caused by the falling aft of the battery and stores, straight as a plum line stern first, she went down the jib boom being the last to appear above water, down sank the terror of merchantmen, riddled through and through, and as she disappeared to her last resting place, there was no cheer, all was silent.

The Kearsarge fired 173 shot and shell; The Alabama about twice as many, yet the Kearsarge had only three men badly wounded, one of whom died later. The Alabamas loss was very heavy, the wounded of the survivers were taken on board the Kearsarge to the amount of seventy, where they shared with her crew. The Kearsarge was struck 28 times with shot and shell, thirteen of which was in the hull. The two ships were very evenly matched, and looked very much alike; which can be seen by following table.

	Alabama	Kearsarge
Length	220 ft.	232 ft.
" of keel	210 ft.	198 ft.
Beam	32 ft.	33 ft.
Depth	17 ft.	16½ ft.
Tonnage	1040	1030

Alabama, two engines 300 H. P. each,
Kearsarge, " " 400 " each.

The old stern post of the Kearsarge, containing a shell in it, now rests in the ordinance museum at the Washington navy yard. The Kearsarge was not much damaged in the engagement, its batterys then consisted of seven guns, two eleven inch pivots, one twenty eight pound rifle, and four light thirty two pounders. The Alabama, had eight guns, both ships made thirteen knots, when under a full head of steam and during the battle they made ten knots or miles. The battle was watched by 15,000 people from the heights of Cherbourg, and from the rigging of vessels in the harbor."

Much surprise was created all over the state when it was announced that the supreme court had granted a rehearing in the Bartley case. The able and exhaustive opinion affirming the decision of the lower court had impressed every body with the conviction that the case was ended. It seems that the rehearing was granted on request of Judge Sullivan, who wanted to hear the case argued. As the case was heard and the decision rendered before Sullivan became a member of the court we cannot say why he wants to dip into it now, nor why the other judges should have yielded his request in the matter. Granting a rehearing does not imply that the former decision will be reversed, yet it makes people suspicious of what may happen and creates much disatisfaction. The Recorder cannot imagin any reasonable excuse for granting a rehearing. —Seward Recorder.

A good story on an editor is going the rounds, and we have it from the best authority that it happened in Nebraska. It is to the effect that the pencil pusher went out to report a party one evening where the home had recently been blessed with a new baby. Accompanied by his best girl, he met the hostess at the door, and after the usual salutations, asked after the baby's health. The lady who was quite deaf and suffering from the grippe, thought he was inquiring about her cold, told him that although she usually had one every spring this was the worst one she ever had, it kept her awake nights a good deal at first and confined her to her bed. Then, noticing that the scribe was getting pale and nervous, she said she could tell by his looks that he was going to have one just like hers, and asked him to go in and sit down. The paper was out the next week, but the editor has quit inquiring about babies.—Ex.

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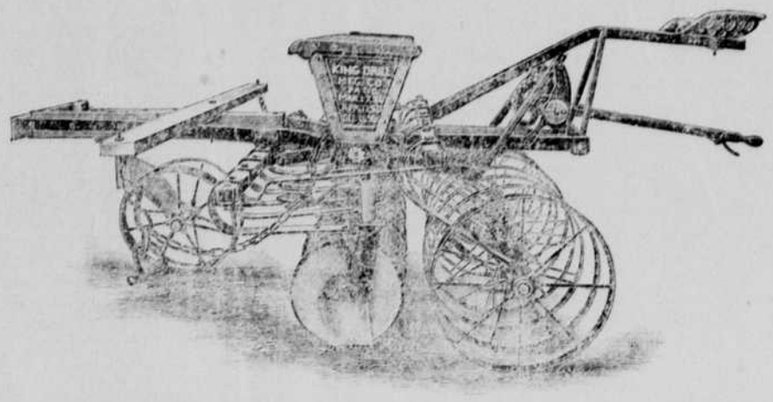

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